

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

21st Annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo is July 23-24



Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Vol. 142, No. 3

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Clarice Cold, Chillicothe, Ill.

Clark is home to South Dakota's oldest living resident

The South Dakota Health Care Association's Century Club, along with KELOLAND Television, is pleased to announce Hazel Christopherson Ness of Clark as the 2022 South Dakota Centenarian of the Year! Born in May of 1915, Hazel is 107 years old, and is the current oldest member of the Century Club-SM!

Even at 107 years old, Hazel continues to celebrate her proud Norwegian roots. A 13-year resident of Clark's Roetell Senior Housing, in recent years she's helped make lefse for residents and staff, and oyster stew on Christmas Eve. Her birthday is even on May 17th, a national holiday in Norway, known as Constitution Day.

A first generation American, Hazel was born in 1915 to Andrew and Marie Christopherson on the fami-

ly farm near Naples, SD. She was one of 7 children, who all grew up working on the farm. When asked recently about the secret to her longevity, she told her granddaughters that she was "never babied."

Hazel has spent her entire life as a resident of Clark County. She married her husband, Clarence Ness, at the Lutheran parsonage in Clark on February 2, 1934. The couple was blessed with two children: Clayton Allen born in 1935, and Dianne Marie, born in 1940. The family farmed in Foxton and Merton Township until 1956, when they moved to Clark.

Hazel worked as a custodian at the local St. Paul Lutheran Church and at different restaurants. She also worked at a local dance hall selling tickets, while her husband worked as a bouncer. Hazel liked to

say that she let them in, and Clarence kicked them out!

Hazel served in several organizations, including the Sons of Norway and Extension Homemakers. She was a smart and savvy card player and has belonged to several bridge and card groups over the years. She enjoyed quilting, making handmade quilts for all of her grandchildren. She is a wonderful cook, serving up Norwegian specialties, fresh fruits and vegetables from her garden, and her light and buttery sugar cookies are still a family favorite!

Over the years, Hazel and Clarence enjoyed visiting their children and their families often. She is the proud grandmother of six, and great-grandmother to six more. Her son, Clayton and his family still travel from Oklahoma to see her

several times a year.

Hazel was always close to her siblings, especially her three sisters, Margaret, Anna and Clara. When they would all get together, the giggles and laughter could be heard from the street. They loved to play games, tell stories and try to one-up each other with the quickest wit.

Hazel has seen so much in her life including two World Wars, the Spanish flu, the Great Depression and the dirty 30s. Through it all, she's shown strength and determination, and has never lost her quick wit.

The Century Club was created by the South Dakota Health Care Association to recognize South Dakotans age 100 or older, both for their longevity and their contributions to our state. Over 1,300 South

Dakotans have been inducted into the Century Club since its founding in 1997. The Century Club is, as its name states, a club. Therefore, there may be older people in the state that have not yet been inducted by a family member or loved one into the Century Club.

The Century Club is open to any resident of South Dakota upon the celebration of his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues and each inductee receives a specially designed certificate and membership card. Once a year, the current oldest living Century Club Member is recognized as the "Centenarian of the Year." Submit names for the Century Club by visiting www.sdhca.org and downloading a Century Club application or call LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, at 1-800-952-3052.



Hazel Ness

Potato Day is Saturday, August 6

Potato Days, 2022 is a little over two weeks away! Make sure you put down August 5, 6 and 7 on your calendar.

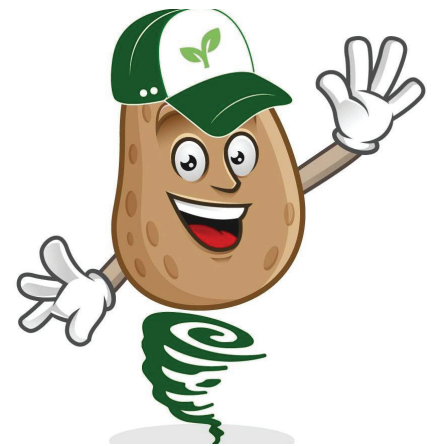
Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, the Spudniks, as well as individual or group sponsorship, events and activities are planned for the entire family regardless of your age or interests.

Nicole DesLauriers is the Chamber president and Cassi Kottke and Robin Hartley are in charge of Potato Days. Kottke, Hartley and the Potato Days committee have been working hard to make this weekend special for one and all.

So many activities are planned for Saturday, as well as some on Friday and community church on Sunday, it is impossible to list them all in story form. A schedule will be inserted into the *Clark County Courier* the week before the event.

This is the 30th Potato Days. The event started as a Clark High School Homecoming event, with the game on Saturday afternoon, starting in 1992.

Eventually Mashed Potato Wrestling replaced the high school football game which went back to Friday night.



This year there won't be a football game but there will be a 16 and under (16U) South Dakota State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament at Dakota style Field in Dickinson Park the same time as 2022 Potato Days.

Swimming Pool Park will be the prime destination for Potato Days this year. And, as is the norm, activities will be held all over the com-

munity of Clark.

Mashed Potato Wrestling is slated for 12:00 noon on Saturday, at Swimming Pool Park. Arts in the Park will also be at Swimming Pool Park, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. New events for 2022 include: Dodgeball Tournament Friday night, Kids Foam Party at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Funny Farm Magic Show at 11:00 a.m., Bubble Extravaganza at 1:00 p.m., Fireman Water Fight at 1:00 p.m. and live music on Saturday from 1:00-8:00 p.m. between the Lookout and Sporties. Plus, Kottke and Hartley remind all about the other great activities including: the kids bike parade, the tough farmer competition, the potato wrestling, the car show, the plate/ping pong ball toss, the bean bag tourney, the parade and the street dance.

The Potato Day Parade is a big way to put an exclamation point on Saturday's activities. The parade

Potato Days (continued on page 5)



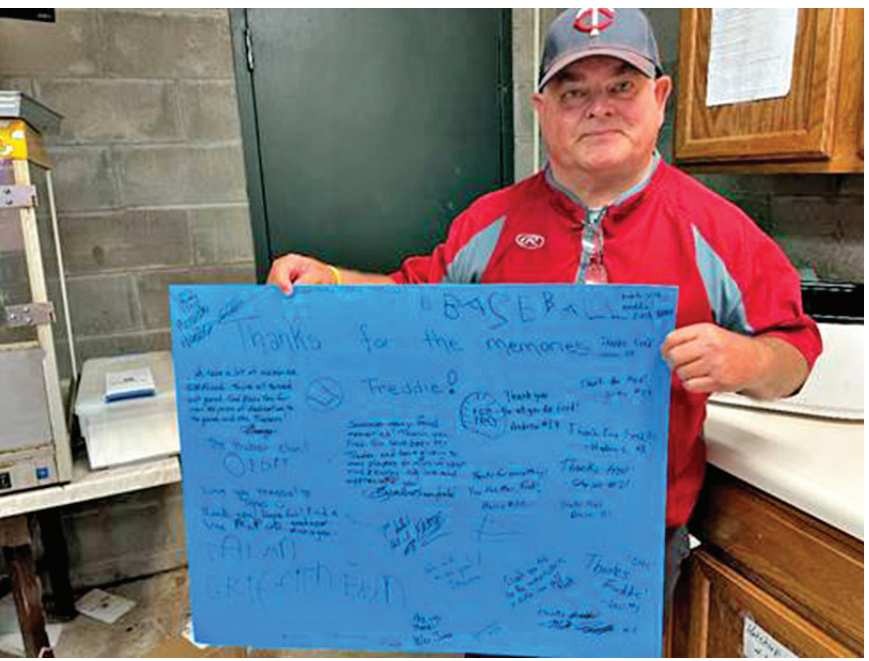
House was moved back on Tuesday

As one travels three miles east of Clark, the house just north of U.S. Highway 212 has moved farther north about 50 yards.

Jennifer Severson and Ray Hirte, owners of this house and property, have big plans in restoring this

homestead. On Tuesday of this week, the house was moved.

Look in next week's Clark County Courier for more information and pictures.



Fred Obermeier is stepping down from his role as Clark Traders amateur baseball manager, after the season is over.

"It's time," said Obermeier. He is shown with a tag board full of well wishes.

Fred Obermeier to retire after 40 years leading Clark Traders

After 40 years of managing the Clark Traders, Fred Obermeier is stepping down from his role as manager. His last regular season game was at Lake Norden on Sunday. District play begins Saturday, in Lake Norden, with the Traders playing the Castlewood Monarchs in the opening round, at 7:00 p.m.. The winner plays Milbank on Sunday.

In 1983, there was another amateur baseball team in Clark, they called themselves the Graceland Gardens. Many of the players asked Obermeier if he would manage a second baseball team in Clark. That's when the Clark Cubs were born.

At some point, Obermeier's cousin, Chess, who traded corn options on the Chicago Board of Trade, got involved and began supporting the team. That's when the Trader's current sponsor, was adopted in Chess's honor.

In South Dakota, Amateur Baseball managers are allowed to play on the field. However, Fred only played when there were not enough players. This has only happened on two occasions. He said that he didn't have any baseball talent but he still loved the game.

The best season in Obermeier's career to date was in 1985, when they made it to the Class B Championship Game, their only one to date. They lost to the Claremont Honkers 9-2. This was also the first time that the A and B Championship Tournament game format was used.

In the 40 years as manager, the Traders have played in far more state tournaments than they didn't play in. Obermeier still has the 2022 District 1B Tournament in Lake Norden and the State Tournament in Mitchell to look forward to before he steps down. Let's hope we can give him a memorable finish to his career. (Eric McPeck helped coordinate this story.)

Twenty-first annual 4-H Rodeo is set for July 23 and 24 at the fairgrounds

The Clark County Fairgrounds will be the site of the 21st annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24. The rodeo events will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Over 200 contestants have signed up to take part in the two day event. Events for junior and senior contestants are planned in both the small and large arenas at the rodeo grounds.

The rodeo event order for both days at the large arena includes: senior barrels, junior barrels, junior-junior barrels, senior steer wrestling, senior dally team rop-

ing, junior flag race, junior-junior flag race, senior pole bending, senior bareback riding, senior saddle bronc riding, junior cattle riding, senior bull riding.

In the small arena, the event order is: senior calf roping, junior boys breakaway, senior breakaway, junior boys goat tying, junior girls breakaway, senior ribbon roping, junior girls goat tying, senior girls goat tying, junior pole bending. Concession stand will be available on grounds.

The 4-H Rodeo contestants will

4-H Rodeo (continued on page 5)

Conditional use permit approved for 3J's car wash

A special meeting of the Clark City Council was held Wednesday, July 13 in the Commissioner's Room of the Ulylot Building.

The prime purpose of the meeting was to sit as a Board of Adjustment and decide upon the Conditional Use Permit brought forth by 3J's automated car wash, to be located on the east end of Clark. The

proposed car wash would be located between the Big C convenience store and the former Midwest Veterinary Supply business.

Jason Steen, Joe Herr and Jerome Nesheim were approved for this conditional use permit, and approved to go forward with this proposed business.

South Dakota churches suffering decline in affiliation and attendance

Bart Pfankuch South Dakota News Watch

Anyone who attends church in South Dakota is probably already aware of a troubling trend afflicting religious organizations and churches across the state and nation: the slow but steady decline in church membership and attendance.

It may be fewer cars in the parking lot, fewer people in the pews or fewer volunteers at charitable outings. It might be a pastor or priest who serves more than one congregation or is in a temporary post as a fill-in. It could also be the closure of a local church or growing concerns that closure could be imminent.

Those are some of the outward signs of what religious leaders and experts say is a dramatic decline in religious affiliation and church attendance that began in the late 20th century, picked up pace during the COVID-19 pandemic, and remains a growing cause for concern in the post-pandemic era.

Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, one of the largest churches in South Dakota, is down 40% over the past 30 years nationally and has fallen by almost 10% in South Dakota over roughly the past decade. At-

tendance at Lutheran churches in South Dakota is down about 14% since 2013, and the ELCA recently closed churches in Newell and Bradley, S.D.

Catholic and Methodist churches are also seeing declines. In the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese, which serves all of East River South Dakota, records indicate that church attendance in 2022 is down 26% compared with 2010 and that membership has also fallen.

The decrease in church affiliation and attendance follows other patterns that show Americans are turning away from organized religion and many of its tenets. Surveys show that among Americans, belief in God is lower than ever; that trust in religion is way down; and that fewer people believe the Bible to be the true word of God and instead see it as a book of only fables or legends.

Perhaps most worrisome for church leaders in America and South Dakota is that in recent surveys, the people who do not affiliate with any religion, the so-called "nones," are the fastest-growing segment of the national population as indicated in surveys about religion, faith and beliefs.

S.D. Churches (continued on page 12)

4-H Achievement Days begin August 1

Summer always seems to fly by! The summer of 2022 is no exception, as schools begin a month from now.

Clark County 4-H Achievement Days begin Monday, August 1 and run through Wednesday, August 3.

New this year is the BBQ Beef Dinner, held Monday, August 1. Clark County 4-H advisor Kim McGraw earlier explained the switch from chicken to beef, because 800 chickens couldn't be guaranteed. "With no guarantee and not knowing how the bird flu was going to affect the supply, we had to make the



decision to change the BBQ." Having the roast beef dinner on opening night will be a change. Plans have been finalized and judges have been selected.

On Monday, August 1, the morning will consist of static judging and club booth set-up. Livestock check-in is scheduled for the afternoon with the BBQ and kick-off activities to finish up opening day.

Tuesday is loaded with the poultry, goat, sheep and swine shows.

On Wednesday, the rabbit show begins the day followed by the beef show and round robin.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 12.....	79	59	0
July 13.....	83	59	0
July 14.....	82	62	0
July 15.....	88	66	0
July 16.....	87	70	0
July 17.....	77	63	0.78
July 18.....	85	69	0
2022 precipitation to date	15.36		
2021 precipitation to date	11.48		